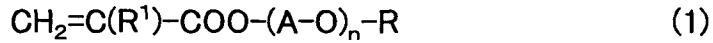


## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Viscosity index improvers, are disclosed, comprising oil-soluble copolymer (A) comprising units of 5–90% by weight of a monomer (a) represented by the general formula:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is H or  $\text{CH}_3$ , A is a  $\text{C}_{2-4}$ alkylene group, n is 0 or an integer of 1–20, and R is a branched  $\text{C}_{18-36}$ alkyl group, free from any polymethylene group containing more than 16 carbon atoms; units of 5–90% by weight of at least one monomer (b) selected from the group consisting of  $\text{C}_{8-17}$ alkyl (meth)acrylates and straight-chain  $\text{C}_{18-24}$ alkyl (meth)acrylates, and units of 5–50% by weight of a monomer (c) having at least one group selected from hydroxyl, amide and carboxyl groups.

The viscosity index improvers are useful as additives for lube oils, such as gear oils, transmission fluids, traction oils, hydraulic oils and engine oils.